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TO THE COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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19th of February 1930.

Wednesday, *the*

8th of Kumbham 1105.

The House met at Half past Eleven of the Clock with the President in the Chair. Messrs. E. Ikkanda Warriar, K. T. Mathew, Ouseph P. Kundukulam and I. Raman Menon were absent.

His Highness the Maharaja's Message.

President.—Before I proceed to the business of the day, I wish to bring to the kind notice of the Hon'ble Members of the House that, on my communicating to His Highness the Maharaja the condolence resolution in connection with the demise of Her Highness the late Valiamma Tampuran, His Highness has been pleased to issue directions to deliver a responsive message to the Council which runs thus:

" His Highness desires to convey to the Council His Highness' best thanks for the condolence resolution so unanimously passed by this House ".

Now we shall proceed to the business of the day: first item, Questions and Answers.

The Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats has not turned up to-day also. If there are supplementary questions relating to the Agricultural Department, they will have to go over along with the two other questions already marked.

Questions and Answers.

Damages due to floods and relief operations.

213. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the Table information on the following points with reference to the last floods and the damages caused thereby:—

(1) the nature of the damages to crops, roads, building, houses ;

(2) the relief measures adopted by Government in the flood-affected areas;

(3) the arrangements made for ascertaining the extent of crops damaged with a view to any remission of assessment being granted as in 1099;

(4) the extent of crop damaged and the amount of remission of assessment ;

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(5) the names of the localities not served by motor cars visited by the Diwan, the Chief Engineer and the Diwan Peishkar ;

(6) the details of expenditure of Rs. 10,000 set apart in the budget for flood relief operations ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(1) The flood-affected areas were mostly in the Cochin-Kanayannur, Mukundapuram and Trichur Taluks. Crops in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk suffered no appreciable damage. In the Mukundapuram Taluk there was complete destruction of crops in about 200 acres. In the Trichur Taluk there was no total destruction of crops anywhere, but it is reported that crops on an area of about 1,300 acres were to some extent damaged by the floods. Many buildings were either damaged or destroyed partially or wholly. Their number in the Mukundapuram Taluk was 709, in the Trichur Taluk 753 and in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk 45.

In regard to the damages to the roads, a copy of the Chief Engineer's report, C. No. 3874/04, dated 5th December 1929, is placed on the Council Table.

(2) All the flood-stricken people were given shelter in almost all the places. Relief by way of free distribution of rice and kanji to the homeless and destitute in all the affected villages was started immediately, and small cash payment was also made to certain sections of the people. Temporary ferry services were opened in almost all the parts where they were found necessary. The Revenue officers, Police, Panchayats as well as the public exerted their utmost in preventing loss of life, not only by rescuing the population living in inundated areas by sending special boats but also by affording shelter and food wherever necessary. Rs. 7,642 have been sanctioned for payment to those who have lost their houses. The amount is being disbursed.

(3) Detailed list of the extent of crops damaged in the several taluks have been received from the Tahsildars. They are under scrutiny.

(4) The question whether any remission has to be granted will be decided only after the scrutiny is over.

(5) Arattupuzha, Kotlaparakkal and Cranganur.

(6) A sum of Rs. 2,625-12-3 was sanctioned and spent towards relief by way of distribution of rice, etc., out of the lump allotment of Rs. 10,000.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was Cranganur very much affected by the last floods ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—To a certain extent it was affected. But then at the beginning it was apprehended that it

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would be very much more serious than it was found to be afterwards. The water was rising, and I had a telegram from the Deputy Tahsildar to say that there was great panic and distress in the place. Nobody knew at that time the extent to which it would go.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—How far are Arattupula and Kottlappara from the place where cars can go ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Cars could then go only up to Urakam.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What is the distance from Urakam to Arattupula ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—If you take the northernmost end of it, the distance is small, but if you take the southern end, the distance is over a mile.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The place where cars could go ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Up to Urakam.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—From there what will be the distance ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The nearest place will be a little more than a mile and a half.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Kottlappara ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—It will be 2 and a half miles. You could not have gone there. It was all a sheet of water. Ask Mr. Seethi, he will tell you.

Difference in the measurement of timber and reduction in price.

214. **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government be pleased to state what was the difference in the measurement of timber and what was the amount of money reduced on account of the difference by the Conservator of Forests on remeasurement in the matter referred to in the answer to question No. 607 of the Legislative Session of 1104 ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The book measurement was Cds. 2,091—1—8—7 3/4. The actual measurement as recorded by the Conservator of Forests was Cds. 1,491—3—11—10.

No reduction was made.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—May I know who did this book measurment ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The Divisional Forest Officer.

Loss sustained on account of the sale of timber to Mr. Namberumal Chetti and others.

215. **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government

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